

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 728

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the community of Friendsville.

WHEREAS, the community of Friendsville was settled by the Religious Society of Friends in the 1790s on three rolling hills in what would later become Blount County; and

WHEREAS, the Friends came out of New Garden, North Carolina, to seek sanctuary from the practice of slavery and from war; and

WHEREAS, the Old Stone House on Big Springs Road is the oldest house still standing in Blount County and has stood in three states: North Carolina, the Lost State of Franklin, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Friendsville played a significant part in the Underground Railroad, which helped runaway slaves, Southerners who wished to avoid conscription into the Confederate army, and others who wished to escape to the North; and

WHEREAS, William Hackney, a Friendsville Quaker, helped more than 2,000 people escape the South using Cudjo's Cave, which is located in Friendsville; and

WHEREAS, the Friends formed the first Friends Meeting in Friendsville in 1801; in 1804, it became the Newberry Preparative Meeting, and in 1808, it became the Newberry Monthly Meeting; and

WHEREAS, in 1875, the meeting was renamed the Friendsville Monthly Meeting, and in 1951, the Friendsville Friends Meetinghouse was remodeled to its current state; and

WHEREAS, African-American churches were later formed, such as AME Zion Church; in 1896, the Methodist church was built, and the Baptist church was constructed in 1922; and

WHEREAS, Good News Center Church, Friendsville First Baptist Church, Friendsville United Methodist Church, and Friendsville Friends Meeting House form the mainstay of the community and continue to give strength to the life of the city; and

WHEREAS, the marble business started in Friendsville in the 1880s, and Friendsville provided all of the pink marble currently located in the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, education has always been a chief interest in Friendsville; the Newberry Institute, organized by the Friends, began its operation in 1857 and later became Friendsville Academy in 1881 before closing in 1975. Friendsville Elementary School was constructed in 1919 and is still in operation today; and

WHEREAS, this once bustling area continues today as a smaller and quieter incorporated town; Friendsville residents still value the town's rich heritage and hold an abiding love for the "Town on Three Hills"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the community of Friendsville for its plentiful contributions to the shared heritage and history of this State, extending our best wishes for the future prosperity of this true Tennessee treasure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.